(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The licenses for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are not transferable. However, the promoters/partners may transfer their equity subject to conditions of the license. While offering the Migration Package in respect of existing licenses to cellular companies, a condition has been imposed regarding a lock-in period of five years on existing share-holdings. Since M/s. Skycell Communications (P) Limited, Licensee for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Chennai had completed five years lock-in period, M/s. Crompton Greaves were allowed sale of their equity (40.5%) in M/s. Skycell Communications (P) Limited to M/s. Bharti Televenture Limited. In case of M/s. JT Mobile, 5 years lock in period has not been completed, no existing shareholder has been allowed to sell their stake to M/s. Bharti post migration.

Revenue Loss to DoT

484. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned "DoT estimates revenue loss at Rs. 3,000 crore" published in the 'Hindu' dated 27th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the revenue has declined for DoT as a result of cost-based tariff recommended by TRAI;

(c) if so, the details thereof with circle-wise break-up;

(d) whether it is a fact that the traffic emanating from the high-end users did not increase as was anticipated by TRAI; and

(e) if so, a detailed comparison of high-end usage before and after tariff revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Available data indicate that reduction in revenue of the Deptt. of Telecom Services (including MTNL) due to tariff rebalancing in the financial year 1999-2000 is likely to be approx. Rs. 2000 crores.

(d) and (e) Separate data for traffic from high-end users is not maintained. Sample data available does not indicate any increases in the total volume of traffic.

Constitution of a dispute settlement system in the field of Telecommunications

†485. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a suitable dispute settlement system like "Lok Adalat" for resolving disputes between licensing authority and license holders in the field of telecommunications, to facilitate speedy disposal of disputes outside court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Prior to its amendment by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 promulgated on 24th Jan. 2000, the TRAI Act 1997 had *inter alia* provided for limited adjudicatory functions to be performed by TRAI, which did not cover the settlement of licensor-licensee disputes.

With a view to strengthen the regulatory framework in the telecommunications sector, Government promulgated the above mentioned ordinance on 24th Jan. 2000. As a result of the amendments brought about to the TRAI Act 1997, the dispute settlement mechanism has been restructured and strengthened. Chapter IV of the TRAI Act 1997, under which TRAI had got limited adjudicatory powers, has been replaced, to provide for the establishment of a separate disputes redressal body, known as the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.